

Message Text

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64
ORIGIN SSM-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 DODE-00 IO-10

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SAB-01 L-03 AID-05 ACDA-05

PA-01 PRS-01 USIE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 SP-02

SAM-01 H-02 /084 R

DRAFTED BY SSM:EGREEN:LMB
APPROVED BY SSM:CMCMANAWAY
NSC - ROAKLEY (SUBSTANCE)
OASD/PA-ROBRIEN
EUR/P - FJSEIDNER
NEA/P - GSHERMAN
P - FWISNER
S/S - FVORTIZ

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O P 162224Z DEC 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EG, IS, GR

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORT THAT GREECE WILL BE THE "SUPPORT
BASE" FOR THE US SINAI MISSION

FEF: ATHENS 9859

1. THE FOLLOWING IS GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR DEPARTMENT
PRESS SPOKESMAN ON AN IF ASKED BASIS WHICH MAY PROVE
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USEFUL TO ADDRESSEES:

Q. THERE'S A PRESS REPORT OUT OF ATHENS THAT THE PENTAGON WILL PROBABLY CHOOSE GREECE AS A ;SUPPORT AND SUPPLY" BASE FOR THE SINAI SUPPORT MISSION. ANY TRUTH IN THAT?

A. FIRST, I WOULD REMIND YOU THAT THE SINAI SUPPORT MISSION IS AN INTERAGENCY GROUP MADE UP OF FIVE FEDERAL AGENCIES AND OPERATING UNDER THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL. AT THIS TIME, THE SUPPORT MISSION IS CONCENTRATING ON THE PREPARATION OF A REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WHICH IT WILL ISSUE TO QUALIFIED WOULD-BE PRIME CONTRACTORS ON DECEMBER 9. NO CONSIDERATION IS CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO THE POSSIBILITY OF A SUPPORT

AND SUPPLY BASE OTHER THAN IN THE SINAI AREA ITSELF.

Q. THE STORY ALSO SAYS THAT NICK THORNE WILL ARRIVE IN ATHENS SHORTLY TO MAKE AN ON-THE-SPOT SURVEY.

A. NICK THORNE AND THE REST OF THE ON-SITE SURVEY TEAM THAT WAS ANNOUNCED ON DECEMBER 4 HAVE RETURNED FROM THEIR TEN DAY SURVEY OF THE SINAI AND ARE NOW IN WASHINGTON PREPARING THE REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS AND FOR THE OFFERORS' CONFERENCES ANNOUNCED FOR DECEMBER 23 AND DECEMBER 30.

Q. ACCORDING TO THE STORY, AMERICANS ARE ALREADY GATHERING IN THE SINAI AND THEY ARE NOT CIVILIANS BUT PEOPLE CHOSEN FROM SPECIAL UNITS OF THE ARMY AND MARINE CORPS.

A. I ASSUME THAT THE PAPER JUMPED TO ITS INACCURATE CONCLUSIONS BECAUSE OF THE MAKEUP OF THE ON-SITE SURVEY TEAM WHICH HAS, AS I MENTIONED, ALREADY RETURNED TO WASHINGTON. IN ADDITION TO NICK THORNE, A FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER WHO WAS ITS LEADER, THERE WERE EIGHT TECHNICAL EXPERTS DRAWN FROM SEVERAL AGENCIES, INCLUDING THE PENTAGON. NOW THAT THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TEAM HAS RETURNED, THERE ARE NO AMERICANS IN THE SINAI. WHEN THE GROUP OF UP TO 200 ENVISIONED IN THE U.S. PROPOSAL AND AUTHORIZED BY THE CONGRESS ARRIVES, IT WILL CONSIST OF VOLUNTEER CIVILIAN PERSONNEL AS SPECIFIED IN PL 94-110. THE REPORT THAT THE AMERICANS IN THE SINAI WILL NOT BE CIVILIAN PERSONNEL IS TOTALLY INACCURATE. THERE WILL BE NO ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN THIS

EFFORT. INGERSOLL

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